Winter Weather Checklist

Make sure you have at least one of the following in case there is a power failure:

- Battery-powered radio (for listening to local emergency instructions). Have extra batteries.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio receiver (for listening to National Weather Service broadcasts.

Food and Safety Checklist:

- Drinking water
- Canned/no-cook food (bread, crackers, dried fruits)
- Non-electric can opener
- Baby food and formula (if baby in the household)
- Prescription drugs and other medicine
- First-aid kit
- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Supply of cat litter or bag of sand to add traction on walkways
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered lamps or lanterns (to prevent the risk of fire, avoid using candles)

<u> Water Checklist:</u>

- Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously
- Keep the indoor temperature warm
- Allow more heated air near pipes. Open kitchen cabinet doors under the kitchen sink
- ➤ If you pipes do freeze, do not thaw them with a torch. Thaw the pipes slowly with warm air from an electric hair dryer
- ➤ If you cannot thaw your pipes, or if the pipes have broken open, use bottled water or get water from a neighbor's home
- Have bottled water on hand
- In an emergency, if no other water is available, snow can be melted for water. Bringing water to a rolling boil for one minute will kill most germs but won't get rid of chemicals sometimes found in snow.

Heating Checklist:

- Have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out: fireplace with plenty of dry firewood or gas log fireplace or portable space heaters or kerosene heaters
- Check with your local fire department to make sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area
- ➤ Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water
- Use electric space heaters with an automatic shut-off switches and nonglowing elements
- Keep heat sources at least 3 feet away from furniture and drapes
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater
- ➤ Have the following safety equipment: chemical fire extinguisher, smoke alarm in working order (check once a month and change batteries once a year), and carbon monoxide detector
- Never use an electric generator indoors, inside the garage, or near the air intake of your home because of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not use the generator or appliances if they are wet. Do not store gasoline indoors where the fumes could ignite. Use individual heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords to plug in other appliances.

Cooking and Lighting Checklist:

- Never use charcoal grills or portable gas camp stove indoors the fumes are deadly
- Use battery-powered flashlights or lanterns
- Avoid using candles
- Never leave lit candles alone

Car and Emergency Checklist:

- Cell phone; portable charger and extra batteries
- > Shovel
- Windshield scraper
- Battery-powered radio (and extra batteries)
- Flashlight (and extra batteries)
- Water
- Snack food
- Extra hats, coats, mittens
- Blankets
- Chains or rope
- Tire chains
- Canned compressed air with sealant (emergency tire repair)
- Road salt and sand

- Booster cables
- Emergency flares
- > Bright colored flag; help signs
- First aid kit
- ➤ Tool kit
- > Road maps
- Compass
- Waterproof matches and a can (to melt snow for water)
- Paper towels

Car Maintenance for Winter Weather:

Keep your car fueled and in good working order. Be sure to check the following:

- > Antifreeze
- Windshield wiper fluid (wintertime mix)
- Heater
- Brakes
- > Ignition
- > Emergency flashers
- Exhaust
- > Tires (air pressure and wear)
- > Fuel
- ➢ Oil
- Brake fluid
- Defroster
- Battery
- Radiator